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**A DIGEST OF CORPORATION CASES.** By Maurice B. Dean. New York: The Banks Law Publishing Company. 1906. pp. xxiv, 1087. 8vo.

The steady increase in the production of law books is apt to suggest to the inquiring mind whether or not publishers are not perhaps more anxious to keep their presses busy than to present to the public really valuable legal literature. This makes the reviewer sometimes sceptical, especially when an author departs entirely from the usual paths trodden by legal writers. Dean's "Digest of Corporation Cases" is a departure. It is based upon a frank repudiation of two well recognized methods of teaching legal principles. It is neither a text-book, because the author thinks that abstract principles of law are too easily forgotten, nor is it a case-book, because the author thinks that by its use the student must encounter too much useless material before reaching anything which he may acquire and carry away with him. It is a compromise between two methods. The author in his own words states the principle decided by a case, and appends in the language of the court what he deems to be its reasoning in deciding it. Two inquiries suggest themselves at once: (1) Has the author accomplished well the task he set himself to do? (2) Was the task worth doing at all? His selection of cases is good, but not large enough. In a number of instances where the law is in conflict, the author gives but one view. This is always misleading to the student. There should be enough cases to give the student not only what has been decided in a particular jurisdiction, but an opportunity to form a judgment for himself as to which of several views is correct. In the second place, the author has fallen into one of the errors about which he complains. In his statement of a decision, instead of confining himself to that part of the judgment illustrating the particular question of corporation law which he himself desires to illustrate, he inserts matters entirely extraneous. To be consistent he should strip his statement of facts, pleadings, and judgments of everything not essential to the complete understanding of the principle to be illustrated. But after all is said the task was not worth the labor involved. The author has not combined the best of two systems. He has simply created a book which might properly be labelled "The Study of Corporation Law Made Easy." Without entering into a discussion of the merits of the two systems of teaching law, it is quite clear, to one who has used the case-book method, that its weakness does not lie in the fact that the student must read "a large amount of useless material." A student properly trained to its use very quickly learns to discriminate between the essential and the non-essential. Books for students should not be written upon the principle that the subject treated must be brought by some mechanical method within the reach of the stupid and the slothful.

C. G. L.

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**LAW: ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH, AND FUNCTION.** By James Coolidge Carter. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1907. pp. vii, 355. 8vo.

**A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF NATURALIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES.** By Frederick Van Dyne. Washington: Frederick Van Dyne. 1907. pp. xviii, 528. 8vo.

**HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF SURETYSHIP AND GUARANTY.** By Frank Hall Childs. Hornbook Series. St. Paul: West Publishing Company. 1907. pp. x, 572. 8vo.

**HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF EVIDENCE.** By John Jay McKelvey. Second Edition, Revised. Hornbook Series. St. Paul: West Publishing Company. 1907. pp. xvii, 540. 8vo.

**LEADING CASES ON THE LAW OF EVIDENCE.** With Notes by Ernest Cockle. London: Sweet and Maxwell, Ltd. 1907. pp. xiii, 224. 8vo.